



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2008

No. 90

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Gracious God, by Your providence we have been given the gift of this day, and from Your hand our needs are supplied.

Give our lawmakers a reference for Your sovereignty and a faith in Your unfolding providence. May their trust in Your guidance lead them to labor for Your honor. May their first aspiration be to hear You say, "Well done." When they are tempted to doubt, infuse them with Your faith. When they are tempted to fear, strengthen them with Your courage. Keep them from becoming weary in choosing the more difficult right, as they remember that in due season, they will reap a bountiful harvest. We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 3, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today following my remarks and those of Senator MCCONNELL, there will be a period of morning business until 11 a.m., or when the hour is gone, with the time equally divided and controlled. The Republicans will control the first half—I see Senator CORNYN, ready to begin—the majority will control the second half of morning business. Then we will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3036, the Climate Security Act. The Senate will recess at 12:30, as we do every Tuesday, for our weekly caucus luncheons, and will reconvene following the official Senate photograph which is scheduled for today at 2:15.

I hope all Senators will make themselves available for the photograph. It takes weeks for the staff to set up to take these pictures. If you look around, you can see in the galleries the lighting. It is very difficult to get the lighting down here to take all 100 Senators. So I hope everyone will be here at 2:15 and be thoughtful and considerate to their colleagues so the staff can get the picture taken as quickly as possible.

FILIBUSTERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday there was a vote, as we all knew there would be—an overwhelming vote—to

proceed to legislation to stem the tide of global warming. This strong bipartisan vote came only after the Republicans forced us to file cloture and use more of the Senate's valuable time. Another filibuster. This is, as I have said before, filibusters on steroids. We have never, ever, in the history of our great country, had as many filibusters as this Republican minority has initiated. In a short 10 months, the 2-year record for filibusters was broken by this Republican minority. They have stopped or slowed down everything they could. They have even forced us to file cloture on things they agree on. Why? Because it eats up valuable time.

We now have 12 weeks left until our adjournment time. There is so much to do—so much to do. We are interested in doing the people's business. The Republicans are interested in stalling—stalling. As an example, today we should be on this piece of legislation, but, no, they are going to do as they have done time and time again: use 30 hours.

For everyone listening, what does this mean? The rules of the Senate are that once you file cloture—first of all, it takes a couple days to file cloture. You have to let it wait for a couple days. Now, why would they make us file cloture on this bill? It is bipartisan; it is sponsored by Senator WARNER and Senator LIEBERMAN, but they have done this. So after we file cloture, we come in and we have a vote. Remember, we waste those days while cloture is ripening. Then, to make it even more absurd, the rule is that after cloture is invoked, you have 30 hours. They make us use that 30 hours. It is wasted time. There is no reason we can't be on this bill.

I spoke to one of the Republican leaders yesterday, and he said: Well, we want more time to debate the bill. No one is taking any debate time away from anybody. But shouldn't we be on the bill? So I say time runs out tonight, shortly before midnight, on the 30 hours. In the morning, we are going

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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